

Library

HEALTH  
A22 NOV 1960  
G.R.

KINGSBRIDGE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

— :: —



REPORT  
*of the*  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year 1960

— :: —

J. R. GILL AND SON LTD.  
KINGSBRIDGE

# **Kingsbridge Urban District Council**

---

## **CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

Council Chambers, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, S. Devon  
Telephone : Kingsbridge 2196

---

## **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon  
Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246-47

---

## **CLERK TO M.O.H.**

MRS. J. RICHARDS  
Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246-47

---

## **ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

Council Chambers, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, S. Devon  
Telephone : Kingsbridge 2122

KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1960

---

Medical Officer of Health: R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: W. H. COWPER, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector: L. J. HILL,  
A.M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.H.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1960.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA**

Area (in Acres)—1,147½.

Population—The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population—3,100.

Number of inhabited houses at 31st March 1960 according to the Rate Book—1,066.

Number of unoccupied houses—23.

Rateable Value as at 1st April 1960—£48,000.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£207.

The town of Kingsbridge is the market centre of an agricultural and highly attractive country district, and its inhabitants are mainly engaged in commerce.

The social conditions are generally favourable to health and longevity.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Live Births :

		Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	45	25	20
Illegitimate	...	2	1	1
		—	—	—
		47	26	21

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 15.16%

Still Births	...	—	—	—
--------------	-----	---	---	---

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births): 15.16%

Deaths	...	...	...	68	35	33
--------	-----	-----	-----	----	----	----

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 21.93%

Deaths from Maternal causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):

				Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and still births)
*Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	—	—	—

### Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	21.18%
-----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	--------

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	21.18%
---	--------

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
---	---

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	9
-------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	---

# CAUSES OF DEATH

							M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	—	—				
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	... ..	—	—				
3.	Syphilitic Disease	... ..	—	—				
4.	Diphtheria	... ..	—	—				
5.	Whooping Cough	... ..	—	—				
6.	Meningococcal Infections	... ..	—	—				
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	... ..	—	—				
8.	Measles	... ..	—	—				
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	... ..	—	—				
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	... ..	1	2				
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	... ..	—	—				
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	... ..	—	1				
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	... ..	—	—				
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	... ..	2	3				
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	... ..	—	—				
16.	Diabetes	... ..	1	—				
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	... ..	1	6				
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	... ..	7	7				
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	... ..	—	—				
20.	Other Heart Diseases	... ..	8	7				
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	... ..	1	—				
22.	Influenza	... ..	1	—				
23.	Pneumonia	... ..	1	2				
24.	Bronchitis	... ..	1	—				
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	... ..	3	—				
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	... ..	—	1				
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	... ..	—	—				
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	... ..	—	—				
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	... ..	1	—				
30.	*Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	... ..	—	—				
31.	Congenital Malformations	... ..	—	—				
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	... ..	4	4				
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	... ..	—	—				
34.	All other Accidents	... ..	1	—				
35.	Suicide	... ..	2	—				
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	... ..	—	—				
			35	33				

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton Rural District, Kingsbridge Rural District and Salcombe Urban District).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

**LABORATORY FACILITIES.** The Public Health Laboratory Service provides a service at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, for the investigation of communicable diseases and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc.

**PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES.** The Devon County health handbook gives details of the various services provided in the district by the County.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1960

Disease			Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles	...	...	50	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	—	—
			51	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1960

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

**WATER SUPPLY.** Although the local Water Board was deeply occupied with various schemes for re-grouping and re-organisation these semi-political and administrative problems had no effect on the continued supply of water to the area.

During 1960 the quantity and quality remained at the former highly satisfactory levels, and although, because of the international situation, questions were raised about possible dangers to public health arising from the contamination of the supply by radio active fall-out or other nuclear means, from the information available to me I am satisfied that the public is, at present at any rate, facing no danger in this respect.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.** There were no large extensions to the system during the year nor were any untoward problems encountered.

I feel that, while on the whole the system is satisfactory it would not be waste of time if consideration could be given at some appropriate time in the future, to the question of improving the method of disposal.

**HOUSING.** My remarks for 1959 regarding the housing demand apply equally to 1960 and although the demand is small in proportion it is steady, and an amount of work on slum clearance awaits the building of new houses to provide the necessary alternative accommodation.

Toward the end of the year I am advised that the progress on the design of the new estate was slowed because of differing points of view between the Planning Authority, the Council and the Ministry, but I look forward confidently to much better progress in the future.

The first scheme for the modernisation of older council houses was completed and is highly successful. This policy is a good one and I fully endorse the wisdom of the Council in continuing this work with further schemes.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.** This weekly collection of refuse remains as before but this year I was glad to see a modern dustless vehicle of the most advanced type in full use.

This innovation was, and is, a vast improvement on the previous "side loader" vehicle and has resulted in an improved service.

## **FOOD**

1. The numbers of types of food premises in the area are as follows:

Greengrocer, 5; Grocer, 14; Butcher, 5; Restaurants, 5;  
Wet Fish Shops, 1; Fried Fish Shops, 2; Baker, 4.

In addition to the above, one person maintains premises for the reception, cleaning and preparation for sale of wet fish and thereafter sells from a properly constructed vehicle.



2. The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows :

Manufacture of Icecream	...	...	...	1
Storage of Icecream for sale	...	...	...	25
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, etc.				4
Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1954	...			3

3. The number of inspections of food premises in the year was 42. This number does not include re-visits where found necessary. The general standard of food premises in the town is good.

4. THE METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD : In the rare cases where large amounts are required to be disposed of, this is done through a recognised firm specialising in the preparation of fertilizers, etc. In other cases, goods are removed by the refuse collection gang and buried at the disposal site.

5. It was not necessary during the year for any special examination of a stock or consignment of food to be undertaken.

## APPENDIX

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	218	—	—	633	1	—
Number inspected	186	—	—	496	1	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned			Nil			
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .. .. .	20			12		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease, etc. .. .. .	10.75			2.42		
Tuberculosis only : ..			Nil			
Cysticercosis			Nil			



## NUISANCES, Etc.

Number of complaints received :							
(a) alleging nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
(b) alleging housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	236
(c) other complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Nuisances proved	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Minor housing repairs dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	202
Other complaints remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Informal letters sent	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Statutory Notices	.....	...	...	...	...	...	4
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions							
	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health							
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	93

# **FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948**

## **PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948**

### **PART I OF THE ACT**

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. in Register	Inspect'ns	Number of Written Occupiers Notices Prosec'd	
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	5	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	42	11	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises) ... ..	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

October, 1961.

Medical Officer of Health.



